# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6032
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
EXPORT OF SPICES
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Spices Board is encouraging the production of black pepper and other spices for exports;

(b) if so, the quantity of various spices exported in 2000-2001 and in the first quarter of 2001-2002, item-wise;

(c) whether exports of spices recorded a 12% decline in the first quarter of current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year;

(d) if so, the reasons for this decline;

(e) whether there has also been a steep decline in term of quantity of Spices exports during this period;

(f) whether foreign markets refuse to accept low quality spices from India; and

(g) the steps proposed to stem this decline?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY( SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH )

(a) Spices Board is concerned only with cardamom on the production side and in export of all spices.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The major decline in export of spices is due to decline in export of pepper which accounts for major share of the total export earnings from spices. Fall in export of pepper is on account of cheaper prices offered by the competing countries like Vietnam and increased supply position. Other reasons for decline in export of spices are non-availability of adequate exportable surplus in case of cumin, fenugreek, ginger and other seed spices; poor international demand in the case of celery and fennel and cheaper prices offered by the competing countries in case of ginger, coriander, chillies and fenugreek.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) Though major foreign buyers like USA, Europe, Japan etc.have adopted stringent measures of quality standards with reference to aflatoxin, microbial load pesticide residue etc, they are not refusing Indian Spices because of low quality.

(g) The steps proposed to stem the decline of spices exports include:-

(i) Introducing pepper cultivation in non-traditional areas including north-east;

(ii) Encouraging cultivation of major spices viz.pepper, ginger, chillies, turmeric for export through service providers in agri. export zones;

(iii) Encouraging organic production of major spices in traditional and non-traditional areas and support of marketing of organic spices in bulk as well as consumer packs;

(iv) Introducing cultivation of high value items like vanilla and herbal spices and encouraging further value addition through specialized processing;

(v) Undertaking market studies and research through the market access initiative programme of the govt,. for promoting value added and processed spices in selected countries preferably in LAC countries;

(vi) Undertaking research and development for studying health and medicinal values of spices with clinical testing for introducing high value items in the developed countries;

(vii) Establishing joint venture units for ginger processing in north-east for exporting ginger in brine to Japan;

(viii) Supporting harmonization of quality standards and providing regular training for quality upgradation;

(ix) Establishing better processing units like steam sterilization, cryogrinding, super critical extraction units etc.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6032 FOR 31.8.01

Qty. in tonnes

Value in Rs. lakhs

| Item | Apr-March 2000-01 | | Apr-June, 2001 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Qty. | Value | Qty. | Value |
| Pepper | 19250 | 32632.75 | 7700 | 8240.00 |
| Cardamom(S) | 1100 | 5654.70 | 190 | 1091.25 |
| Cardamom(L) | 1645 | 2768.75 | 275 | 450.00 |
| Chilli | 61000 | 19523.50 | 16500 | 5310.00 |
| Ginger | 6580 | 2295.40 | 1150 | 506.00 |
| Turmeric | 34500 | 9106.00 | 10500 | 2175.00 |
| Coriander | 11700 | 2742.50 | 1950 | 583.50 |
| Cumin | 13800 | 11743.50 | 3800 | 3387.00 |
| Celery | 5250 | 1700.50 | 800 | 260.00 |
| Fennel | 4000 | 1778.00 | 1400 | 600.00 |
| Fenugreek | 9050 | 1787.50 | 1250 | 362.50 |
| Other seeds (1) | 2425 | 896.25 | 950 | 332.50 |
| Garlic | 11000 | 1040.30 | 700 | 126.00 |
| Other spices (2) | 35000 | 14490.00 | 9500 | 3300.00 |
| Curry Powder | 6200 | 3997.00 | 1250 | 812.50 |
| Mint oil | 3875 | 12645.00 | 975 | 3493.75 |
| Spice Oleoresins & other oils | 3625 | 36405.00 | 950 | 9577.50 |
| Total | 230,000 | 161206.65 | 59840 | 40607.50 |